

House Republican Press Release

December 22, 2005
Press Office: 860-240-8700

Scribner Praises Beginning of Rail Modernization



*Ranking Member of Transportation Committee
Says Rail Car Bid Spec Distribution is the Critical
First Step*

HARTFORD- State Representative David Scribner (R-Brookfield), Ranking Member of the General Assembly's Transportation Committee, today said the delivery of bid specifications for rail cars to three companies qualified for the bid process to manufacture the cars is the beginning of critical and long-overdue modernization of the Metro-North Railroad. Bombardier Transit Corporation, Kawasaki Rail Car Inc., and Siemens Transportation Group all expressed interest in developing the M-8 rail cars, and had the specifications delivered.

"This is the first important step toward the modernization of Metro-North, and begins to see the work the Governor and General Assembly put into motion," said Scribner, who worked to usher funding for the project through the transportation Committee, and the House of Representatives. "We are on time with the project, and I expect we will continue to be so."

Up to 342 of the new M-8 rail cars for the New Haven Line may be produced by the winning bidder. The first cars are expected to be delivered by the end of 2008. Connecticut and New York will share the cost based on ridership levels, with New York paying 35% and Connecticut paying 65% of the bill.

"This is an enormous undertaking in beginning the upgrade of Metro-North, and a huge gain for Connecticut commuters when it is concluded," said Scribner. "Ultimately the improvement of the commuter railway will increase its use and utility, as well as take traffic off of Connecticut's congested roadways during commuter hours."